Permits to Foreign Tourists

2047. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists granted permits to visit restricted/protected areas in the country by the Government during the last one year upto 30th June, 1997;

(b) whether such permits are being issued liberally or are subjected to some restrictions ; and

(c) the details of criteria being followed in the grant of such tourist permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Foreigners are permitted to visit certain open places in the restricted/protected areas for tourism and are granted permits literally for the purpose. However, there are places which can be visited by foreign tourists only in groups consisting of four or more persons. Varists only in groups consisting of four or more persons. Various authorities, viz., Indian Missions, Foreigners Regional Registration Officers and concerned State Government officers have been authorised to grant permits to foreign tourists. The data relating to permits issued is not centrally maintained.

Sukhana Lake

2048. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Chandigarh Administration has to carry out disilting operation of Sukhana Lake in Chandigarh every year;

(b) if so, the amount spent on such operation during the last three years upto June 30, 1997 ; and

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any policy or scheme to find a permanent, solution to this problem with a view to check the flow of earth to the lake and to save such a huge recurring expenditure every year?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Chandigarh Administration has informed that desiltation operation is carried out in Sukhna Lake every year due to erosion of soil in the catchment area.

(b) The total amount spent on such operations during the last 5 years upto 30th June, 1997 is Rs. 48, 50, 575/-

(c) Chandigarh Administration has perpared a scheme for integrated development of Sukhna Lake to undertake more soil conservation measures in the catchment area and to remove silt accumulated in the Sukhna Lake at a total cost of Rs. 38.65 crores. The project has been posed for financial assistance to Government of India under scheme of National Lake Conservation Programme. Sukhna is one of the identified lakes for intensive conservation and management under first phase of National Lake Conservation Programme.

Starvation Death in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

2049. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether starvation deaths have been reported in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ;

(c) whether the Government propose to enquire into the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of Mango Research Centre

2050. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Mango Research Centre at Nuzvid in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the present stage of the project ; and

(c) the time by which this Research centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir. Mango Research in Andhra Pradesh is being supported by ICAR under its All India Coordinated Fruits Improvement Project at the Fruit Research Station, Sangareddy of the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad since 1971. This Research Station also covers Mango Research of Nuzvid area.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Service Conditions of Police Force

2051. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of hard working conditions under which police-para-military forces like CRPF and Delhi Police are working;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to set up Expert Committee to assess the ground realities and formulate much awaited reforms in terms of improvement of working conditions of Constables in these organisations; and

(c) if so, the details of fresh initiatives taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the working conditions of the CPOs, the Government has decided to rationalise their pay & rank structures. The Vth CPC has recommended the benefits of one month's additional Pay in a Year, in order to compensate difficult working conditions.

Locust Attack on Cultivation

2052. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of locust attack causing heavy damage on cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the causes for such locust attack on cultivation have been detected ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check locust attack on cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The locust swarm incursion takes place from across the western borders. Also, local build up can occur, if weather conditions are favourable and locust remains undetected in the inaccessible desert areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the locust attack in the country :

(i) The Government has set up Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) comprising its headquarters at Jodhpur, 5 circle offices at Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Planpur and Jodhpur and 23 locust outposts.

(ii) Intensive locust surveillance and monitoring in scheduled Desert Areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan is regularly maintained.

(iii) Establishment of Wireless linkage between Jodhpur (India) and Karachi (Pakistan) is maintained from June to November each year to exchange locust situation informations.

(iv) Requisite plant protection equipment, wireless sets, vehicles for control operations have been positioned.

(v) Close coordination with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is being maintained to take advance action against the possibilities of any swarm incursion.

Pilferage in Drug Department in Super Bazar

2053. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of pilferage in Drug Department of Super Bazar has come to the notice of the management of Super Bazar during the last two year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of cases pending along with the amount involved in each case ;

(d) whether any action has been taken so far by the management to sort out the pending cases ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) According to information furnished by Super Bazar, Delhi no case of pilferage/stock shortage during 1995-96 has come to their notice. The reconciliation work for 1996-97 has not yet been completed by them.

Inter-State Council

2054. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI P. NAMGYAL :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minsiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council recently held its meetings ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the subjects discussed and the decisions taken theroon ; and

(d) the reacrtion of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Since its constitutio on 5.12.1996, the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council has held four meetings. These meetings took place on 15.1.1997, 10.5.1997, 17.6.1997 and 8.7.1997.